

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 02570 011439Z

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 DHA-02 H-02 L-03 /021 W

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R 011420Z DEC 76

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3517

UNCLAS USBERLIN 2570

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (MURPHY, JOHNNIE LOU)

SUBJECT: W/W TRIAL OF JOHNNIE LOU MURPHY

REFS: USBERLIN 2009

FOR EUR/CE AND SCS

SUMMARY

1) THE TRIAL OF JOHNNIE LOU MURPHY FOR THE MURDER OF MEMBER OF FORCES WAYNE WOODS OPENED ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29. AS THE TRIAL ENTRED ITS SECOND DAY EVERY MAJOR BERLIN PAPER CARRIED A STORY ON THE CASE. THE TRIAL HAS RECESSED UNTIL DECEMBER 3.

END SUMMARY.

2) MISSION GERMAN LEGAL ADVISOR AND ARMY OBSERVRRS ATTENDED TRILA NOVEMBER 29. OPENING SESSION GIVEN OVER TO MOTION BY DEFENSE ATTORNEY FOR DISMISSAL ON GROUNDS THAT COURT NOT COMPETENT TO TRY MRS. MURPHY AND THAT VERDICT OF GUILTY OF MURDER AND CONSPIRACY TO MURDER HANDED DOWN IN HUSBAND FLOYD MURPHY'S COURT MARTIAL RENDERED IMPARTIAL TRIAL IMPOSSIBLE. THE COURT RECESSED FOR TWO HOURS TO CONSIDER MOTION WHICH WAS OVERRULED. AFTER THE COURT FULLY APPRISED HER OF HER RIGHTS UNDER GERMAN LAW, MRS. MURPHY MADE A LONG RAMBLING STATEMENT. ONE WITNESS, A FORMER NEIGHBOR OF MURPHYS WHO CAME FROM FORT HOOD TEXAS ALSO TESTIFIED.

3) A CONSULAR OFFICER ALSO ATTENDED TRIAL NOVEMBER 30.

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PAGE 02 USBERL 02570 011439Z

TESTIMONY AND CROSS QUESTIONING OF NEIGHBOR CONTINUED.

HER NEIGHBOR'S HUSBAND ALSO TOOK STAND. THEIR TESTIMONY
WAS NOT TAKEN UNDER OATH.

4) PRESS COVERAGE PLAYED UP SENSATIONAL ASPECTS OF CASE
HEADLING FOR EXAMPLE , " FIRST LOVE, THEN DEATH, THE
DEVILISH GAME WITH THE LOVER." MORGENPOST, PAPER WITH SECOND
LARGEST DAILY CIRCULATION REPORTED THAT WITH THE AUTHORIZATION
OF THE AMERICAN MISSION, BERLIN, MRS. MURPHY WAS THE FIRST
WIFE OF AN AMERICAN SOLDIER STATIONED IN BERLIN TO BE TRIED
BEFORE A GERMAN COURT.

5) THE TRIAL RESUMES DECEMBER 3.

6) COMMENT
THE GERMAN LEGAL ADVISOR WAS IMPRESSED WITH PAINS COURT TOOK TO
ACQUANT MRS. MURPHY WITH HER RIGHTS. MRS. MURPHY WAS CALM
THROUGHOUT SECOND DAY OF TRIAL. COURT INTERPRETER EXTREMELY
COMPETENT. A UNIFORMED CAPTAIN, OBSERVER FROM STAFF JUDGE
ADVOCATE'S OFFICE HEIDELBERG WAS SEATED NEXT TO COURT REPORTER.
GEORGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USBERL02570
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760445-0812
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761281/aaaacscm.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 USBERLIN 2009
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 MAY 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: W/W TRIAL OF JOHNNIE LOU MURPHY
TAGS: CASC, (MURPHY, JOHNNIE LOU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006